Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 189

PAGE 01 SANTIA 03082 110041Z

89
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 RSR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-00
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 AID-28
PC-04 IGA-02 EUR-20 NIC-01 SSO-00 /142 W

R 102350Z AUG 70
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3240
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3082

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJ: REACTION TO MITRIONE ASSASSINATION

REF: STATE 128716

1. LOCAL REACTION BY RESPONSIBLE MEDIA TO MITRIONE DEATH ONE OF HORROR AND REPUDIATION. AFTERNOON LA SEGUNDA GAVE ITS ENTIRE FRONTPAGE TO PAIR OF BLODDY HANDS UNDER RED BANNER "CIME AGAINST HUMANITY". PDC'S LA TARDE HEADLINED "CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR TUPAMAROS: RETROACTIVE LAW UNDER STUDY". ON THE OTHER HAND, SOCILIST ULTIMA HORA CAPTIONED HARDLY VISIBLE "CADAVER OF U.S. POLICE ADVISOR FOUND" ABOVE MAIN HEADLINE "THE TRUTH SERUM FOR TUPAMAROS.

2. REACTION QUOTES FROM LOCAL PERSONALITIES CARRIED BY AFTERNOON PAPERS REFLECT THEIR POLITICAL ATTITUDES. PDC SENATOR RENAN FUENTEALBA QUOTED AS SAYING GOU CREATED CLIMATE PROPITIOUS FOR VIOLENCE BUT GOES ON TO CONDEMN "CRIMINAL VIOLENCE". AND SPECULATE THAT REPEITION OF SUCH ACTS WILL INDUCE AFFECTED GOVTS TO APPLY EYE FOR AN EYE RETALIATION. PN SECEGEN, DEPUTY ENGELBERTO FRIAS CALLED ASSASSINATION "MONGTROUS". PC SENATOR VOLODIA TEITELBOIM REPORTED AS SAYING MITRIONE WAS FBI AND CIA AGENT AND ALTHOUGH HE MIGHT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN U.S. INVASION OF

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 4-22-83
ROUTINE
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SANTO DOMINGO OR LENT SERVICE TO BRAZILIAN "TORTURERS" OF POLITICAL PRISONERS," WE DO NOT SUBSCRIBE IN ANY WAY TO SUCH (ASSASSINATION) METHODS. THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH CONCEPTIONS OF CHILE'S POPULAR MOVEMENT." TEITELBOIM, WHO IS COMMUNIST PARTY'S PRINCIPAL IDEOLOGUE FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING "I THINK IN CHILE WE HAVE DUTY TO AVOID SIMILAR DEVELOPMENTS, AND ONLY WAY POSSIBLE TO DO SO IS GIVE REAL AND JUST SATISFACTION TO PEOPLE'S NEEDS AND DEMANDS". FOREING MINISTRY SUB-SECRETARY PATRICIO SILVA QUOTED BY LA SEGUNDA AS CONDEMNING "MISERABLE CRIME AGAINST INNOCENT VICTIM" AND ANSWERING IN NEGATIVE NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER GOC CONSIDERING WITHDRAWAL OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL FROM MONTEVIDEO.

3. PURSUING PREDICTABLE LINE, ULTIMA HORA ARTICLE FEATURES QUOTES FROM POPULAR UNITY PARLIAMENTARISN WHO DEPLORE DEATH BUT EMPAHSIZE ALLEGATION GOU RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE. PAPER ALSO CARRIES QUOTE FROM STATEMENT BY PDC POLITICAL COMMISSION WHICH DEPLORES TERRORISM AND ASSERTS INTERNAL SITUATION OF COUNTRY DOES NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFY EXECUTION OF DIPLOMATS OR MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE NORMAL CHILEAN REACTION PROPERLY FOCUSING ON FACT MITRIONE KILLING NOTHING OTHER THAN COLD-BLOODED MURDER, MARXIST SPOKESMEN OR APOLOGISTS EMPHASIZING MITRIONE POLICE BACKGROUND, ALLEGATIONS HE WAS FBI OR CIA AGENT AND SEEKING PLACE BLAME ON GOU FOR HAVING CREATED CONDITIONS LEADING TO CRIME. MARXISTS MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECT THIS CALLOUS CRIME ON ALLENDE'S SOFT SELL CAPAIGN FOR PRESIDENCY. ALESSANDRISTA FORCES CAN BE EXPECTED EXPLOIT TRAGEDY TO FULLEST IN CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY ALLENDE AND MARXIST LEFT WITH VIOLENCE. ALTHOUGH COMMUNIST SENATOR TEITELBOIM HAS ATTEMPTED DISASSOCIATE POPULR UNITY FORCES FROM TUPAMARO ACTION, SOCIALIST HARDLINERS ARE LIKELY TO BE MORE AMBIGIOUS IN THEIR STATEMENTS.

5. I HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF SYMPATHY CALLS FROM OTHER EMBASSIES AND CHILEAN FRIENDS. GP-4
KORRY

UNCLASSIFIED